



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

MEMO

TO: Mr. Timothy S. Bee
President, Arizona State Senate
Mr. James P. Weiers
Speaker, Arizona House of Representatives

FROM: Karen Liersch
Deputy Associate Superintendent, Adult Education Services

DATE: December 16, 2008

RE: **A.R.S. 15-232 Semiannual Report to the Arizona Legislature from
Adult Education Services: June 1, 2008 – December 1, 2008)**

The Arizona Adult Education System consistently ranks in the top quartile of all states, producing over 2 grade levels of educational gains per student for less than \$1300 annually. Additional data from the U.S. Department of Labor reports that adults who complete Adult Secondary Education and earn their high school diploma by passing the GED Test earn an additional \$9000+ annually in taxable wages, producing tax revenue at both the state and federal levels almost immediately (in 2008 over 12,000 Arizona adults earned their high school diploma by passing the GED Test). These factors make the return on investment in adult education one of the most cost effective investments available today, an investment that helps individuals, families, Arizona and our country.

Arizona Adult Education Services (AES) monitored all state funded programs in FY 2008 and found 100% to be in compliance with the Proposition 300 amendment to ARS 15-232. Of the 20,060 people who applied for instruction in Arizona Adult Education during the reporting period, 470 people (2.3% percent) were denied instruction because they failed to provide acceptable evidence of citizenship or legal residence in the United States. The following table provides current and historical state totals for the number of people (1) who are waitlisted for classes in each AES service area, (2) who applied for classes, and (3) who were denied enrollment under the Proposition 300 amendment to ARS 15-232 during the reporting period.

Arizona Adult Education ARS 15-232 Compliance Report Comparison 2007 to 2008

<u>ARS Report Date:</u>	<u>Waitlist ABE/ASE*</u>	<u>Waitlist ELAA**</u>	<u>Waitlist TOTAL</u>	<u>ARS 15-232 Applicants</u>	<u>ARS 15-232 Service Denials</u>
December, 2008	4025	2877	6902	20,060	470
June, 2008	3347	2703	6050	16,373	771
December, 2007	3151	2434	5585	18,276	1149
June, 2007	2342	4382	6724	11,931	1403

*ABE/ASE: ABE: Adult Basic Education (Reading, Writing, Math through 8th grade)

ASE: Adult Secondary Education (Reading, Writing, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies: grades 9-12)

**ELAA: English Language Acquisition for Adults